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arrangement, when completed, will induce many of the insurgents to accept autonomy, and that thus peace will be restored to the island in the near future. Captain-General Blanco says that Cuba should look forward with confidence to the near approach of peace, which he believes will come during the present month. Commerce is mightier than arms.

Great Britain's course in the East is being watched with the greatest interest. In a recent speech at Swansea Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a statement to the effect that Chinese ports should not be shut to Great Britain. He said that his government did not regard China as a place for conquest or colonization by any European or other power, but as a hopeful field for the development of the Commerce not only of Great Britain, but of the world. He believed that the government would have the sympathy and support not only of all parties in Parliament but of the best public opinion everywhere. The Chancellor's declaration has been approved not only by leaders of the Liberals but also by newspapers of every shade of opinion. In this country much sympathy has been expressed with the British government in the policy thus announced. Japan is siding with Great Britain in the demand for equality of commercial opportunity. In consideration of a loan of sixty or eighty millions of dollars for which China is negotiating Great Britain asks that China shall not alienate any part of the Yangste valley, that Great Britain shall have the right to extend her railway from Burma through Yunnan and that China shall open three new treaty ports, one in the north, one in the center, and one in the south. To the opening of the first of these ports, Talienwan, Russia is opposed; to that of the third one, France. But Great Britain is likely to have her way, in large measure at any rate, and it is reasonably certain that no blood will be shed. The risks are too great for any of the powers to venture to go to war to prevent the peaceful opening of these ports to the commerce of the world.

Brevities.

On the 25th of August, 1790, Mirabeau said: "The moment is perhaps not far from us when liberty, reigning without a rival over the two worlds, shall realize the wish of philosophy, release the human race from the crime of war and proclaim universal peace."

... Before the recent meeting of the American Humane Society Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald opened his address by saying: "While war continues to be possible between nations calling themselves Christian, all other brutalities are possible."

... At the Peace Congress held in London in 1851 the president, Sir David Brewster, wore on his breast an olive

branch which had been sent him from France for the occasion.

... More clergymen of the Church of England took part in the observance of Peace Sunday in Great Britain this year than ever before.

... Dr. C. A. Berry, since his return to England, has publicly made the statement that during his five weeks' journeyings in the United States he did not meet one man who was opposed to arbitration, though he found in some quarters an objection to a binding treaty.

... The Tabernacle Church at Sheffield, England, has passed a resolution protesting against "the cruel and revengeful policy pursued by our (British) military authorities in India, in burning numerous villages, scattering defenceless women and children, rendering them homeless and destitute—barbarous proceedings which bring discredit and dishonor upon the British name."

... The Russian naval estimates for 1898, including ship-building and harbor improvement, amount to twenty-three millions of dollars.

... The second number of the *Christian Register*, Boston, under the new management, contains an article on "War or Peace" by Mr. W. Henry Winslow.

... The first number of the new journal, *La Vita Internazionale*, alluded to in our last issue, has reached us from Milan, Italy, where it is published. It has thirty-two pages and a cover. Besides others, it contains articles on "The Two Italies (North and South)," "The Triple Alliance and the Dual Alliance," "Fifty Years Afterwards, 1818-1898," "The Crisis of the Family," "An Apology for War." There are "Politico-Social Notes," notes on "The Peace Movement," etc. The journal is published semi-monthly at \$2.00 a year, for Italy, \$3.00 for other countries.

... Björnsterne Björnson, the great Norwegian author, is endeavoring to get Norway, Sweden and Denmark to conclude an agreement to submit every controversy to a court of arbitration.

... It has been estimated that the armies of Europe, on a war footing would make a procession reaching round the globe, and that it would take them about a year, marching night and day, to pass a given point.

... *Concord* the organ of the International Arbitration and Peace Association, begins the new year increased in size, improved greatly in appearance, with a new design for its front page. It has a new editor, G. H. Perris, and the January number contains contributions by Lord Farrar, Frederic Harrison, Justin McCarthy, William Clarke, Hodgson Pratt and others.

... *Die Waffen Nieder* says that M. von Egidy, who made such an impression with his great speech at the time of the Hamburg Peace Congress, has recently been speaking in South Germany on "Die Kriegsslose Zeit" (The Warless Time), and, according to the press, has everywhere made a profound impression.

... It is estimated that the British navy has cost five hundred millions of dollars, and that the navies of France, Germany and Italy have each cost more than half that sum.

. . . Señor Correa, *chargé d'affaires* of the Greater Republic of Central America at Washington, has received advices indicating that the complete consolidation of Nicaragua, Salvador and Honduras into one sovereign republic is progressing steadily. The constitution has been completed and will be passed upon by a constitutional assembly, of twenty delegates from each of the countries, to be held this spring.

. . . At the Parker Memorial Hall, Boston, on the evening of January second Dr. Edward Everett Hale delivered an address on "The Reign of Peace." His point of departure was the Supreme Court of the United States, and the address was a plea for a permanent international tribunal, which he thinks we ought, before the close of this century, to take the lead in establishing.

. . . President Dole of the Republic of Hawaii has arrived in this country, and is received as the guest of the nation. He says he has not come to try to influence in any way the decision of the question of annexation. He knows, however, the influence which his simple presence will have on the "unconscious cerebration" going on in the heads of Senators.

. . . United States Minister Angell at Constantinople has informed the State Department that the Turkish government has not yet yielded to his demand for the payment of an indemnity for the destruction of American mission property during the Armenian outbreak. The Porte takes the position that a government is not responsible for the destruction of private property during a riot, when the government has made every effort to guard it. The prospect of a speedy settlement is not promising.

. . . Daniel Hill, secretary of the Peace Association of the Friends in America, has commenced the publication at Richmond, Indiana, of a small, four-page paper in the interests of the peace cause. It is entitled *The Messenger*, and the price is twenty cents per year, or ten copies for one dollar. Secretary Hill's purpose is to make the little sheet a regular little peace gattling gun.

. . . Ambassador White has sent the State Department an emphatic denial of the rumor that he and Mrs. White had been snubbed at a reception given by Emperor William. He says that the Emperor and all others have been most kind to them.

. . . Benjamin F. Trueblood, Secretary of the American Peace Society, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Central Committee of the International Association of Journalists, organized at Paris for the promotion of international peace.

. . . The General Peace League of Holland has just issued its twenty-fifth year book. It covers ninety-five pages, and contains a list of the peace societies in Europe and America, a report of the last annual meeting of the League, a review of the year 1897, an account of the Hamburg Peace Congress, and other interesting matter of local or general interest.

. . . The recent British expedition on the northwest frontier of India cost twenty million dollars per month. That was five hundred dollars per month for each of the forty thousand men of the army. It is so much more taxes to be paid by the poor Hindoos!

. . . Hon. Lyman J. Gage has written a letter to Mr. D. R. Goudie of Chicago, editor and publisher of *The Pen or Sword*, in which he expresses the conviction that the cause of arbitration and peace "ought to receive the support of all those who, engaged in trade and commerce, have come to realize the value of settled conditions, under which alone the peaceful arts of industry thrive, wealth accumulates, and man advances in his intellectual and moral development."

. . . Rev. George H. Hepworth, in one of his recent letters, reports a scholarly and well-to-do Armenian as saying: "If Europe would let us alone we might still have a future, but as it is we seem to be a doomed people. Europe has interfered in our favor and ruined us. She has roused the worst passions of the Turk against us, has excited his suspicions, and left us in the lurch to die or live as God may will."

. . . Our one-cent stamp is to be changed in color to green, and the five-cent stamp to a dark blue. These changes are made in accordance with a resolution passed at the meeting of the Universal Postal Congress at Washington last spring. This resolution provided that the one-cent, two-cent and five-cent stamps, or their equivalents, should be made uniform in color throughout the world. The two-cent stamp already fills the bill. The postage stamp is the first complete international institution. *Pax semper et ubique* ought to be its device.

. . . An international congress of press women will convene in Washington, D. C., February 18 and 19, under the auspices of the Woman's National Press Association. The chairman of the Congress committee is Hannah B. Sperry, 321 Delaware Ave., Northeast, Washington, D. C. The headquarters of the Congress will be at Willard's Hotel.

. . . President McKinley has decided to send a special agent to Cuba to distribute the supplies sent by the Central relief committee of New York. Consul-General Lee is unable to handle the large quantities of clothing, provisions, furniture and cooking utensils sent.

. . . The great engineers' strike in England, which began on the 13th of July last, and has been one of the longest and most extensive in the annals of English labor troubles, is ended. The terms made by the employers have been accepted. Work was simultaneously resumed in all the federated shops on the 31st ult.

. . . The British troops operating against the Afridis in Northwest India have just met with a serious disaster in a gorge near Shin-Kamar. The second battalion of the Yorkshire light infantry lost many officers and men. It is thought that this will so encourage the Afridis as to make a new invasion of the Tirah country necessary in the spring. This disaster came to the British while trying to cut off the retreat of a number of Afridis who had been driving their cattle to graze.

. . . It is reported that a Russian volunteer fleet is about to sail, to convey in the quickest possible time ten thousand Russian troops to the far East.

. . . An American man-of-war is to be sent to Samoa. Ex-Consul-General Churchill, just returned, has told the

President that the natives have no respect for the American government, which has not kept a war-ship at Apia. The British and German governments both keep war-ships in Samoan waters.

Commerce and the Cornstalk as Peacemakers.

BY EDWARD ATKINSON.

The greatest achievement in manufacturing is the final acceptance of the service of the bacteria which dwell in nodules attached to leguminous plants, peas, beans and the like, between the stalk and the root. Living there they dissociate the nitrogen of the atmosphere, and, dying, convert it through the plant to the nutrition of the soil, the beast and the man, assuring the complete renovation of the slave-stricken soil of the southland.

The historic event of the year is the recognition of the transfer of the dominion of iron and steel from Europe to the United States, thus conveying to the people of this nation the paramount power in the development of commerce, which has given supremacy to great Britain for more than a century.

The most notably discovery of the year works in two directions. The word to conjure with is "cornstalk." The claims are made, and apparently sustained, for the conversion of dry cornstalks into two useful substances, cornstalk meal freed from cellulose or pith, and dry pith or cellulose freed from cornstalk meal. The first may add to the cattle food of this country a digestible, nutritious food equal to the best of hay and more than equal in quantity to the present hay crop of the United States. Nearly the whole of this product of cornstalks has been previously wasted.

If the claims which are made about the use of cellulose in naval construction are sustained, it is possible, even probable, that all the existing large battleships of the navies of the world are worthless for offense or defense. It is possible, even probable, that the next development will be a steel ram enveloped in cornstalk cellulose, unsinkable and impregnable, before which every existing type of battleship or cruiser must go down, ending naval war and the necessity of coast defence. Nothing more visionary or apparently absurd can be put before your readers, yet such is the promise of the cornstalk.

I submit these facts as the best Christmas greeting that can be presented. They contain the promise of peace, goodwill and plenty. They lead to the reunion of the English-speaking people who have become more and more interdependent, serving each other's needs in the pursuit of commerce, which lives and moves and has its being in the mutual benefit of men and nations.

The science of commerce rests on mutual benefit and requires for its conduct probity, integrity, character and capacity. Its end is constructive; its motto, progress and human welfare.

The science of war may call for the same qualities in the individual, but the conduct of war rests upon lying, cheating and misleading the enemy, spying, ambushing and slaughtering the incredulous, getting advantage by these methods so as to strike an enemy in the back or on the flank in place of meeting face to face.

As surely as the science of war is destruction and

rapine, the science of commerce, construction and progress, so surely will commerce prevail, while war shall cease, either because it has become so destructive on land that none can meet its demands, or so innocuous upon the sea, under the dominion of the cornstalk, as to make it a subject of national derision—*The Boston Globe*.

Peace Among The Nations.

BY REV. SCOTT F. HERSHEY, PH.D.

Christmas Sermon at the First Presbyterian Church, Boston.

"For unto us a child is born, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace." Isa. ix. 6:

He who came from heaven as the Prince of Peace, came as a prince to implant the principles of peace, which are truth and uprightness, integrity and confidence, righteousness and goodwill, justice and love. He came to teach these principles, not as ethical theories, but as practical working rules in the common philosophy of the life of man, of the life of the community, and of the life of the nation. This kingdom of peace, beginning in personal life, widens to affect all the vital interests of the community, and to righteously direct the higher course of the nation; and even then it must remain a kingdom under limitations never designed of God, unless it passes into the vast field where operate the Christian nations, and there preserve the integrity alike of justice and love; that the commercial, educational and religious progress of the race may go on, undisturbed by the hand of strife.

This Prince of Peace came, as told in prophecy, to dwell among men, to open up in the widening horizon of their moral life a vision of humanity as a unit, a brotherhood, and to open out towards that coming unity of the race, held in the bonds of peace, he laid, as highways for men and nations to travel, the paths of good-will and love.

Christ came to call men to repentance; no less, he came to call nations to repentance. He came as a teacher to men, and invites them to learn of him the ways of moral and spiritual prosperity; he came, also, to teach nations, and he invites them to learn of him the ways of national rectitude and international happiness. He found men offending God and sinning against truth and righteousness, and he told them of their inevitable doom. He has the same gospel for nations. Conformity to righteousness invigorates national life and makes it stalwart in all those heroic virtues which extend and elevate national character; while the conspiracy of selfish ambition, or of malice and hatred, will eventually and unalterably sweep nations on to the doom which fell upon Babylon and Rome, which is unmistakably closing about Spain.

The American Republic, the most remarkable product ever brought forth by the union of government and law with liberty and equality, may fairly be called a Christian nation. It was colonized by a devout Christian people from many lands. The voice of prayer has never been dismissed from the councils of the nation. The national conscience is sensitive to the idea of the sovereignty of the Ruler of the Universe, who is Lord over all, and the national heart, which sometimes becomes somewhat asphyxiated by depraving political selfishness, is very responsive to the national faith that the providence of